



RULE-MAKING ORDER

CR-103 (June 2004)
(Implements RCW 34.05.360)

Agency: Department of Health - Hearing and Speech

☒ **Permanent Rule**
☐ **Emergency Rule**

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

☒ 31 days after filing.
☐ Other (specify) _____ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

☐ Immediately upon filing.
☐ Later (specify) _____

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?
☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: RCW 18.35.040 (1) (b) requires satisfactory completion of a two-year degree program in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction. Rules need to be established to outline the approval process for two-year degree programs in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction.

Citation of existing rules affected by this order:

Repealed:
Amended:
Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.35.040

Other authority: RCW 18.35.161

PERMANENT RULE ONLY (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 05-22-129 on November 2, 2005 (date).
Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

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EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- ☐ That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- ☐ That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding:

Date adopted: March 3, 2006

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Laurie Anderson

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Chair, Board of Hearing and Speech

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

APR 26 2006

1204
06-10-025

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>4</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	<u>4</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Pilot rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Other alternative rule making:	New	<u>4</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

NEW SECTION

WAC 246-828-600 Approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction. The minimum educational requirement for licensure to practice as a hearing instrument fitter/dispenser in Washington is satisfactory completion of a two-year degree program in hearing instrument/fitter dispenser instruction approved by the board. The board will consider for approval any program which meets the requirements as outlined in this chapter.

(1) An authorized representative of an institution may apply for approval from the board.

(2) The application for approval must be submitted on forms provided by the department.

(3) The authorized representative of the program may request approval of the program as of the date of the application or retroactively to a specified date.

(4) The program application for approval must include, but may not be limited to, documentation required by the board pertaining to the standards as set in WAC 246-828-615 two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction standards.

(5) A program must be fully recognized by the appropriate accreditation body in that jurisdiction.

(6) The board will evaluate the application and may conduct a site inspection of the program prior to granting approval by the board.

(7) Upon completion of the evaluation of the application, the board may grant or deny approval or grant approval conditioned upon appropriate modification of the application.

(8) The authorized representative of an approved program shall notify the board of significant changes with respect to information provided on the application within sixty days of change.

(9) The board may inspect an approved program at reasonable intervals for compliance. Refer to WAC 246-828-605 Site review procedures for initial and continuing approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction. The board may withdraw its approval if it finds the program has failed to comply with requirements of law, administrative rules, or representations in the application.

NEW SECTION

WAC 246-828-605 Site review procedures for initial and continuing approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction. The board may inspect a currently approved program or a program requesting approval. These inspections may be at any reasonable time during the normal business hours of the institution.

NEW SECTION

WAC 246-828-610 Process for rescinding approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction. In the event the board denies an application, rescinds approval or grants conditional approval, the authorized representative of the applicant's program may request a review within thirty days of the board's adverse decision/action. Should a request for review of an adverse action be made after thirty days following the board's action, the contesting party must submit a new application to be considered for review.

NEW SECTION

WAC 246-828-615 Standards for approval of program for two-year degree in hearing instrument fitter/dispenser instruction. The curriculum of the program shall include the components listed in this chapter.

(1) The standards in this section are intended as minimum components of a curriculum, and are not intended as an exact description of program curricula. To assure a graduate is competent and can function on his or her own, the curriculum should be designed to assure proficiency in all these fields through extensive practical work experience in addition to classroom teaching. All the necessary instruments and laboratories based on industry standards are a prerequisite.

(2) Minimum areas of standard:

(a) **Supervised practicum:** Including hands-on experience with patients.

(b) **English composition:** Written presentations.

(c) **Occupational communications:** Oral presentations, documentation of professional activities.

(d) **Occupational human relations:** Code of professional ethics, interpersonal skills, teamwork.

(e) **Basic math and computers:** The physics of sound, basic

acoustics, methods of programming hearing instruments, calculating pricing, costs and other business-related math skills.

(f) **Hearing instrument sciences:** Basic electronics, circuit designs of hearing instruments, testing methodology of instruments, test standards, familiarity with all major instruments on the market, basic signal processing, programming of digital instruments using computers.

(g) **Hearing physiology and anatomy:** Anatomy and physiology of the human auditory system.

(h) **Pathophysiology of auditory system:** Introductory level study of genetic disorders and infectious diseases of the auditory system.

(i) **Psychological aspects of hearing loss:** Curricula should be designed so the student understands:

(i) How hearing loss affects patients and others close to them;

(ii) How to follow up with patients after initial fitting; and

(iii) Methods of teaching communication skills to the hearing-impaired.

(j) **Audiometrics:** Performing pure tone and speech audiometry and interpretation, measuring output of instruments both in the lab and in the ear.

(k) **Earmolds:** Emphasis on practical skills and safety.

(l) **Instrument selection:** Recommending the best technology according to the client's needs from conventional through advanced digital/programmable instruments, including referrals for medical implantable devices.

(m) **Health care and business:** Laws governing the profession, insurance aspects, health care management, advertising, marketing and sales.

(n) **Introduction to speech-language pathology.**

(o) **Overview of cochlear implants** including criteria for referrals for medical implantable devices.

